



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service  
Food and Drug Administration

m3915n

JUN 30 2000

19900 MacArthur Blvd., Ste 300  
Irvine, California 92612-2445  
Telephone (949) 798-7600

**WARNING LETTER**

**CERTIFIED MAIL**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

**WL-61-00**

**Inspection ID: 1404910006**

Zita M. Uy, Division Director Professional  
Saint Vincent Medical Center  
2131 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90057

Dear Ms. Uy:

We are writing to you because on 5/18/2000, your facility was inspected by a representative of the State of California, acting in behalf of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and this inspection revealed a serious regulatory problem involving the mammography at your facility.

Under a United States Federal law, the Mammography Quality Standards Act (MQSA) of 1992, your facility must meet specific requirements for mammography. These requirements help protect the health of women by assuring that a facility can perform quality mammography. The inspection revealed the following level 1 finding at your facility:

- 1. The interpreting physician did not meet the requirement of being licensed by a state to practice medicine: [REDACTED]**

The specific problem noted above appeared on your MQSA Facility Inspection Report which your facility received at the close of the inspection. This problem is identified as Level 1 because it identifies a failure to meet a significant MQSA requirement.

Because this condition may be symptomatic of serious underlying problems that could compromise the quality of mammography at your facility, it represents a violation of the law which may result in FDA taking regulatory action without further notice to you. These actions include, but are not limited to, placing your facility under a Directed Plan of Correction, charging your facility for the cost of on-site monitoring, assessing civil money penalties up to \$10,000 for each failure to substantially comply with, or each day of failure to substantially comply with MQSA standards, suspension or revocation of your facility's FDA certificate, or obtaining a court injunction against performing further mammography.

In addition, your response should address the Level-2 findings that were listed on the inspection report provided to you at the close of the inspection. These Level-2 findings are:

1. **The interpreting physician did not meet the continuing education requirement of having completed a minimum of 15 CME credits in mammography in a 36 month period:** [REDACTED]
2. **The interpreting physician did not meet the continuing experience requirement of having read or interpreted 960 patients examinations in a 24 month period:** [REDACTED]
3. **The interpreting physician did not meet the requirement of having a minimum of 40 CME credit hours of initial training in mammography:** [REDACTED]

It is necessary for you to act on this matter immediately. Please explain the following elements to this office in writing within fifteen (15) working days from the date you received this letter:

- The specific steps you have taken to correct all of the violations noted in this letter,
- Each step your facility is taking to prevent the recurrence of similar violations,
- Equipment settings (including technique factors), raw test data, and calculated final results, where appropriate, and sample records that demonstrate proper record keeping procedures, if the findings relate to quality control or other records (**Note: Patient names or identification should be deleted from any copies submitted**).\*

\*This note is not applicable for letters which also address patient notification.

Please submit your response to:

Director, Compliance Branch  
Food and Drug Administration  
19900 MacArthur Boulevard, Suite 300  
Irvine, CA 92612-2445

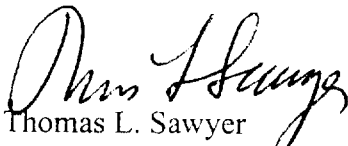
Letter to Ms. Uy

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Finally, you should understand that there are many FDA requirements pertaining to mammography. This letter pertains only to findings of your inspection and does not necessarily address other obligations you have under the law. You may obtain general information about all of FDA's requirements for mammography facilities by contacting the Mammography Quality Assurance Program, Food and Drug Administration, P.O. Box 6057, Columbia, MD 21045-6057 (1-800-838-7715) or through the Internet at <http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/dmgrp.html> <<http://www.fda.gov/cdrh/dmgrp.html>>.

If you have more specific questions about mammography facility requirements, or about the content of this letter, please feel free to contact Beverly Thomas at (949) 798-7708 or Minh Phan at (949) 798-7711.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas L. Sawyer  
Acting District Director

cc: California Department of Health Services  
Los Angeles County Radiation Management  
550 South Vermont Avenue, Room 601  
Los Angeles, CA 90020

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Breast Imaging Accreditation  
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